

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sealed cartridge comprising first and second sheet materials joined to form a space ~~therebetween~~ there between, and a beverage-forming substance for preparing a beverage located in the space between the sheets, with the first material designed to admit water into the cartridge for extraction of the beverage from the beverage-forming substance, and the second material having properties to retain the water or beverage in the cartridge until an overpressure of 0.1 to 3 bar is achieved, at which overpressure the second material will rupture under the sole effect of the rise in pressure inside the cartridge to allow the extracted beverage to exit the cartridge and wherein the first sheet material is selected from the group consisting of paper, a non-woven fiber, prescored plastic material and combinations thereof.

Claim 2 (original): The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the beverage-forming substance is roasted and ground coffee, soluble coffee, a chocolate beverage forming substance or a mixture thereof.

Claim 3 (canceled):

Claim 4 (currently amended): The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the first material is filter paper having a density of 15 to 30 g/m<sup>2</sup> and a thickness between 0.1 to 1 mm or of a non-woven fiber or plastic material having a density of between 20 and 100 g/m<sup>2</sup> so ~~hat~~ that it will permit water to enter the cartridge by gravity flow.

Claim 5 (original): The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the first material is aluminum having a thickness of 20 to 100 microns and is configured to allow puncturing by piercing means in order for water to be admitted into the cartridge.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The cartridge of claim 1 wherein the second material is paper, a non-woven fiber or plastic material, or a composite material, ~~optionally~~ containing ~~weakened or prescored~~ regions.

Claim 7 (original): The cartridge of claim 6 wherein the second sheet is made of filter paper or of a non-woven fiber or plastic material having a sufficiently tight mesh to retain water in the cartridge until the overpressure is reached.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The cartridge of claim 6 wherein the second sheet includes ~~weakened or prescored~~ regions which open when the overpressure is reached.

Claim 9 (original): The cartridge of claim 8 wherein the second material is an aluminum/plastic composite.

Claim 10 (original): The cartridge of claim 7 wherein the second sheet includes a removable cover.

Claim 11 (original): The cartridge of claim 1 wherein both the first and second sheets are made of a material that acts as an oxygen barrier so that no further packaging of the cartridge is required.

Claim 12 (original): The cartridge of claim 1 wherein either or both of the first and second sheets are not made of a material that acts as an oxygen barrier so that a further packaging of the cartridge is required to prevent oxygen deterioration of the beverage-forming substance.

Claim 13 (original): The cartridge of claim 2 wherein the first sheet material is paper, a non-woven fiber or plastic material, or a semi-rigid material, the second material is paper, a non-

woven fiber or plastic material, or a composite material, optionally containing weakened or prescored regions, and the first sheet is welded to the second material.

Claim 14 (original): The cartridge of claim 2 wherein the first and second sheet materials have a circular, oval, or polygonal shape and the substance is present in an amount of 5 to 10 grams.

Claim 15 (original): The cartridge of claim 13 wherein the first and second materials are each made of filter paper.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The cartridge of claim 13 wherein the first and second materials each is a ~~woven~~ non-woven fiber or plastic material.

Claim 17 (original): The cartridge of claim 13 wherein the first material is aluminum and the second material is one of a filter paper, filter paper with a cover, or a pre-scored plastic material.

Claim 18 (original): The cartridge of claim 13 wherein the first material is filter paper or a non-woven fiber or plastic material, and the second material is an aluminum/plastic composite.